



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Superior
National
Forest

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File Code: 1950/2320/2900
Date: August 21, 2013 August
21, 2013

Dear Interested Publics:

The BWCAW Non-native Invasive Plant Management Project Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) are now available for review. The Final EIS and ROD are available on our web page at: www.fs.usda.gov/goto/superior/projects, then scroll down to "BWCAW NNIP Management Project." Please contact the Laurentian District office at (218) 229-8800 if you would like a hard copy of the documents.

We received eleven comment letters on the Draft EIS. All of the comments and Agency responses are included in Appendix N to the Final EIS. The Final EIS contains some clarifications to the effects analysis based on the comments. We clarified topics such as the disposal of NNIP, monitoring native plants at treatment sites, empty herbicide container management, applicator training, monitoring, and several others. There was also one minor change in the proposed action in response to a comment on herbicide discharges, which is that manual treatments would be used rather than herbicide treatment for purple loosestrife if standing water is present at the base of the purple loosestrife at the time of treatment. No substantive changes were made to the Final EIS.

The ROD documents my decision and rationale for deciding to implement Alternative 2. My decision uses an integrated pest management approach to move the project area towards objectives identified in the Superior National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan. My decision to use a combination of herbicides and handpulling will maintain and improve aquatic and terrestrial wildlife habitat, maintain healthy, resilient native plant communities, and maintain the wilderness character and ecological integrity of the BWCAW.

I have carefully considered the effects of the project and have given consideration to the comments submitted both on the scoping proposal and the Draft EIS. I appreciate the comments because they help us focus the analysis and ensure we consider a range of alternatives with varying effects. This gives me the ability to better understand the effects and consequences of both taking action and what would happen if I selected no action. The ROD discloses my rationale for selecting Alternative 2

This decision is subject to appeal pursuant to Title 36 CFR 215. A written Notice of Appeal, including attachments, must be postmarked and submitted to the Appeal Deciding Officer within



45 days following the date the legal notice is published in the official newspaper of record, the Duluth News Tribune, published in Duluth, Minnesota. The publication date of this legal notice in the Duluth News Tribune is the exclusive means for calculating the time to file an appeal; those wishing to appeal should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. See the ROD for more information on how to file an appeal.

Again, I want to thank those who read through the Draft EIS and submitted comments to us. Your comments do help us better manage the Superior National Forest.

Please contact Jack Greenlee, Forest Botanist and Non-native Invasive Species Program Manager, at (218) 229-8817 or jackgreenlee@fs.fed.us if you have any questions or comments on the Final EIS or ROD.

Sincerely,

/s/ Brenda Halter
BRENDA HALTER
Forest Supervisor

cc: Mary Shedd
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